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TI N-Alkylactams

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SO Japan. Kokai, 6 pp.

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AB N-alkylpyrrolidones I (R = alkyl; R1 = H, Me) or N-alkylpiperidones II were prepd. by alkylating N-unsubstituted lactams with an aliph. alc. at 280-400.degree. in the presence of SiO2-Al2O3, SiO2-MgO, .gamma.-alumina, HX- or HY-zeolite, tungstic acid, molybdic acid, NH4X- or NH4Y-zeolite, ammonium tungstate, ammonium molybdate, NH4VO3, ammonium phosphotungstate, ammonium phosphomolybdate, or CrPO4 with or without addn. of NH4Cl, KCl, NH4Br, LiCl, LiBr, and (or) KBr. Thus, 15 g 2-piperidone was heated with 20 g MeOH, 1.5 g tungstic acid, and 0.6 g NH4Cl at 340.degree. for 3 hr in an autoclave to give 86% N-methyl-2-piperidone. Similarly prepd. were N-methyl-, N-ethyl-, N-isopropyl-, N-propyl-, N-butyl-, and N,.delta.-dimethyl-.alpha.-pyrrolidones.

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